

# Paid Sick Days: Attitudes and Experiences

## Key findings from the 2010 NORC/Public Welfare Foundation national survey on Paid Sick Days

Survey of 1461 Adults, conducted March - May 2010

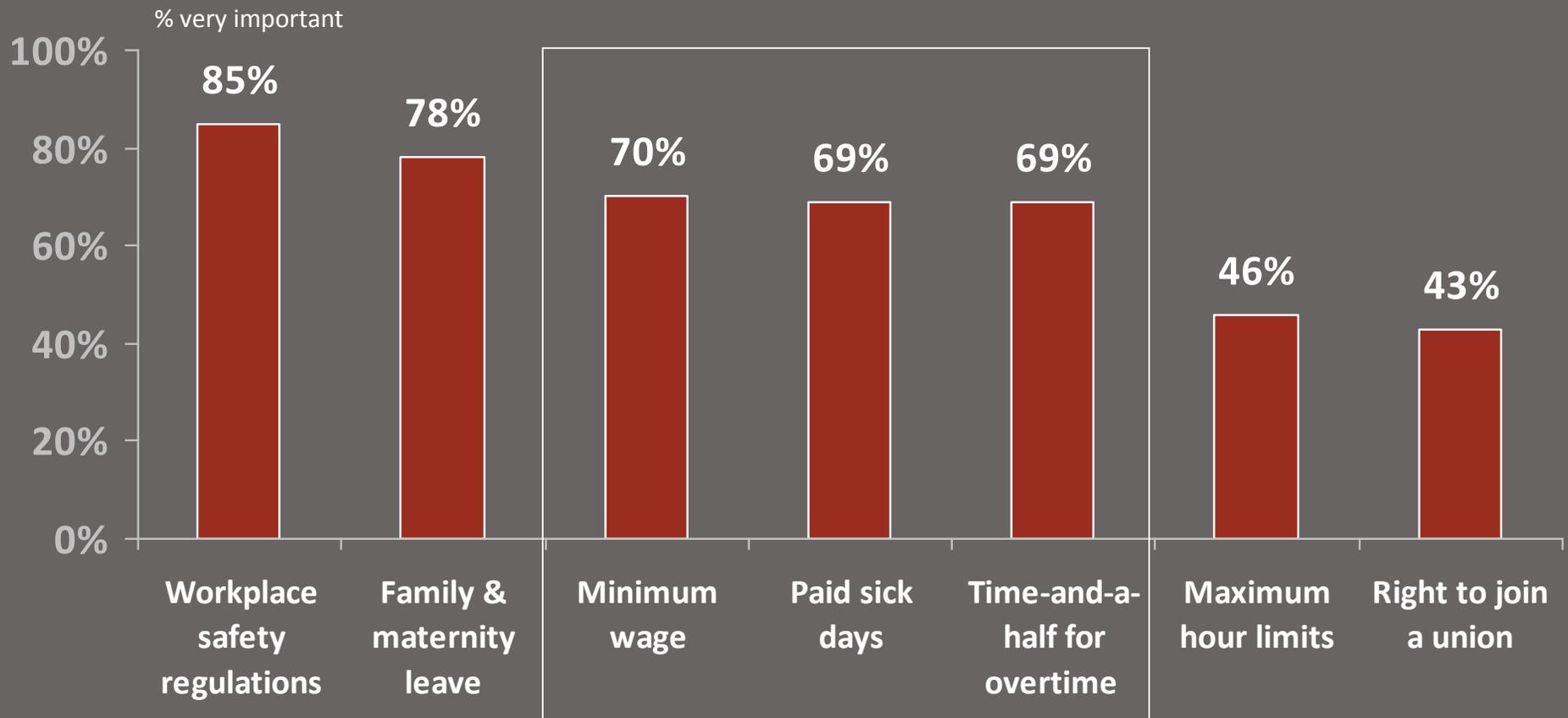
*Presentation prepared by the National Partnership for Women & Families*



# Paid sick days are as important a labor standard as minimum wage and overtime pay

2

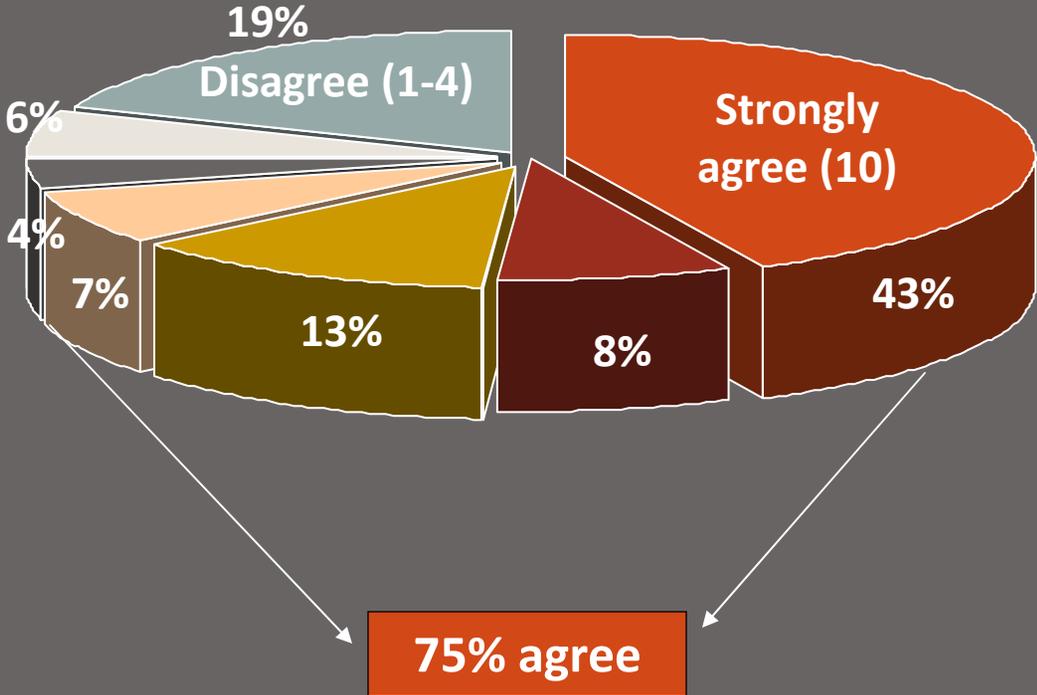
How important do you consider the following standards to protect workers' rights?



# Three-quarters of the public agree that paid sick days are a basic worker right

3

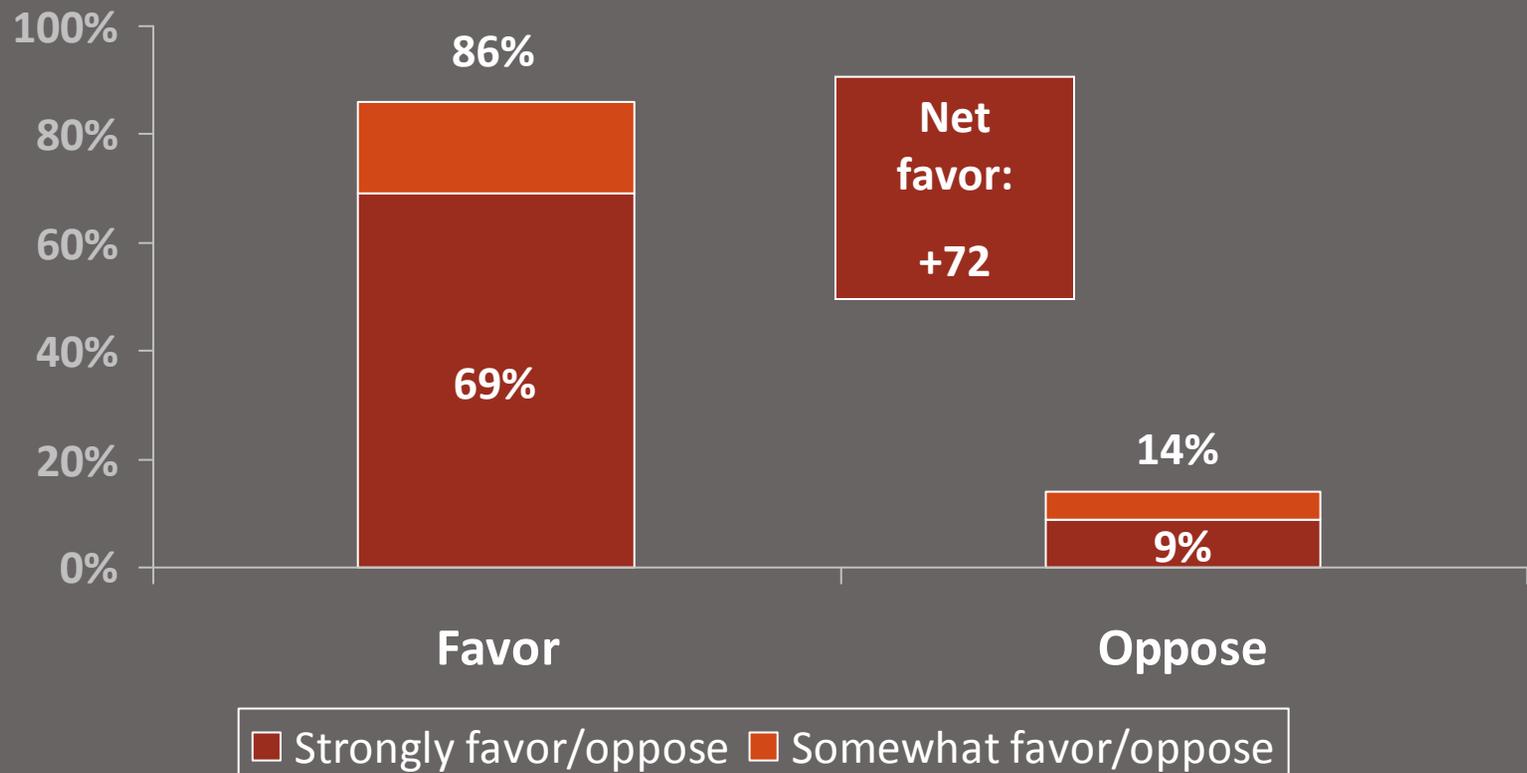
On a scale of 0 (don't agree at all) to 10 (agree very strongly), do you agree that paid sick days are a basic worker right, just like being paid a decent wage?



# Nearly nine in ten people favor a law guaranteeing all workers up to seven paid sick days per year

4

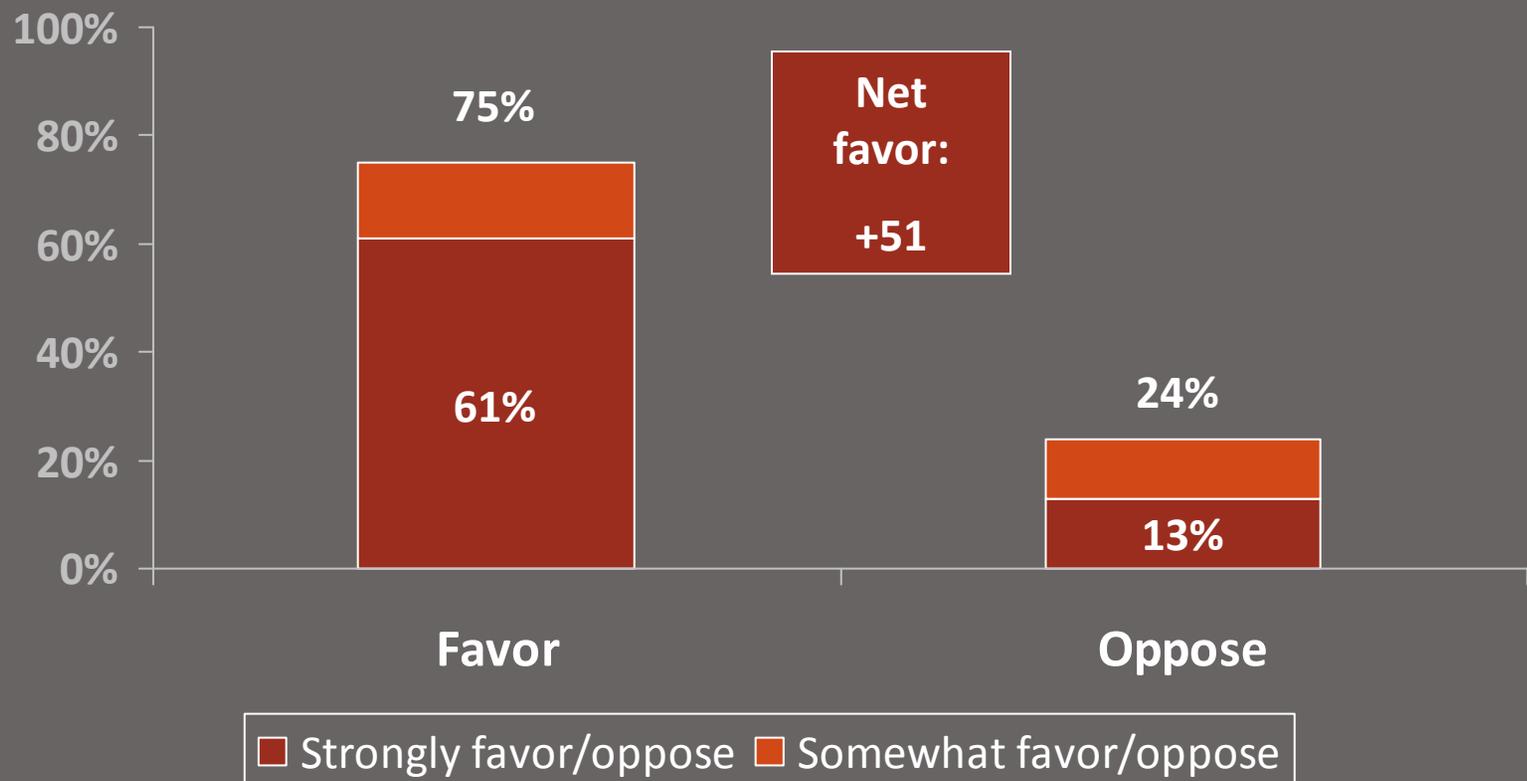
Now I am going to ask you about some specific proposals about paid sick time... Under one law, employees would earn one hour of sick time for every 35 hours they work, up to 56 hours or 7 days of sick time per year. Based on this description, would you favor or oppose this law to provide paid sick days to all workers?



# Three in four people favor a law guaranteeing all workers a “minimum number” of paid sick days

5

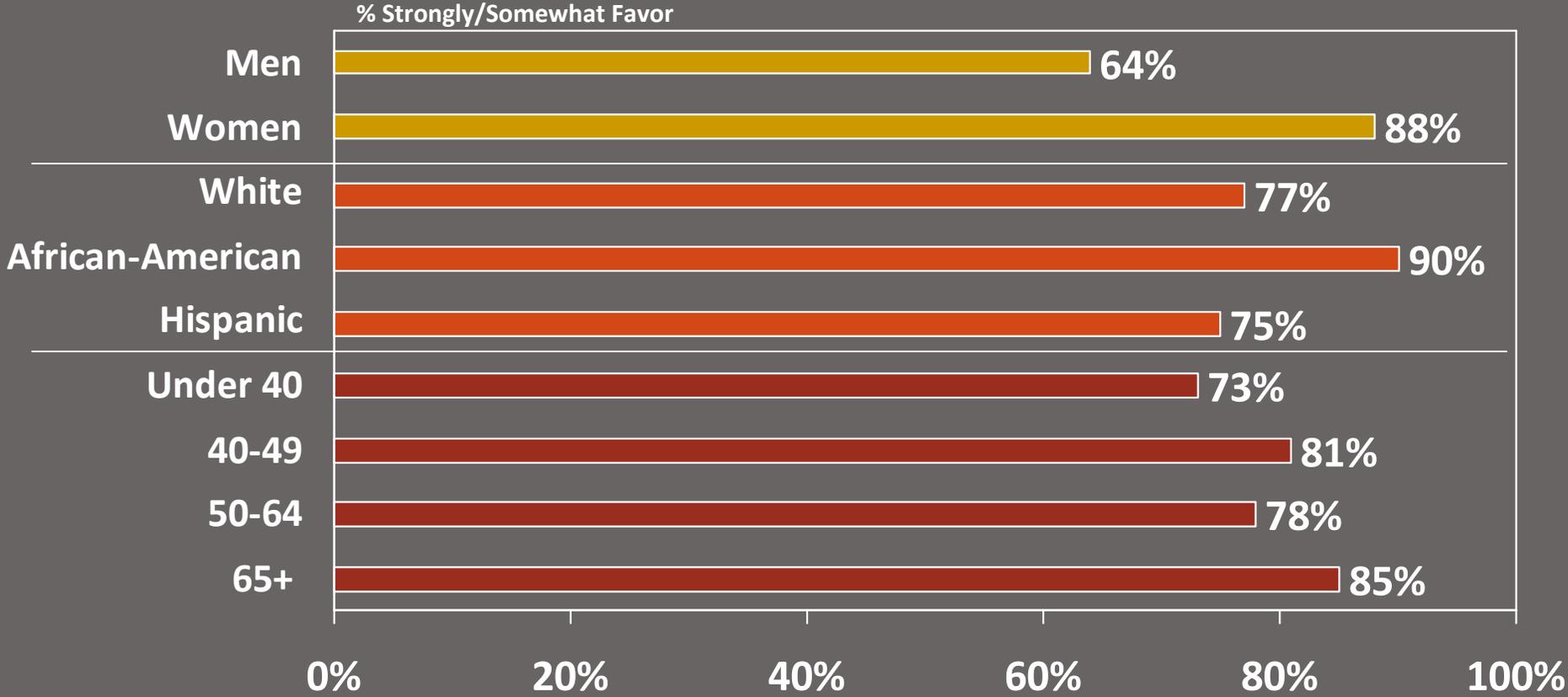
Do you favor or oppose a law guaranteeing all workers a minimum number of paid sick days to care for themselves or immediate family members?



# Support for a minimum paid sick days standard is high across all demographic groups – especially among women, African-Americans, and older people

6

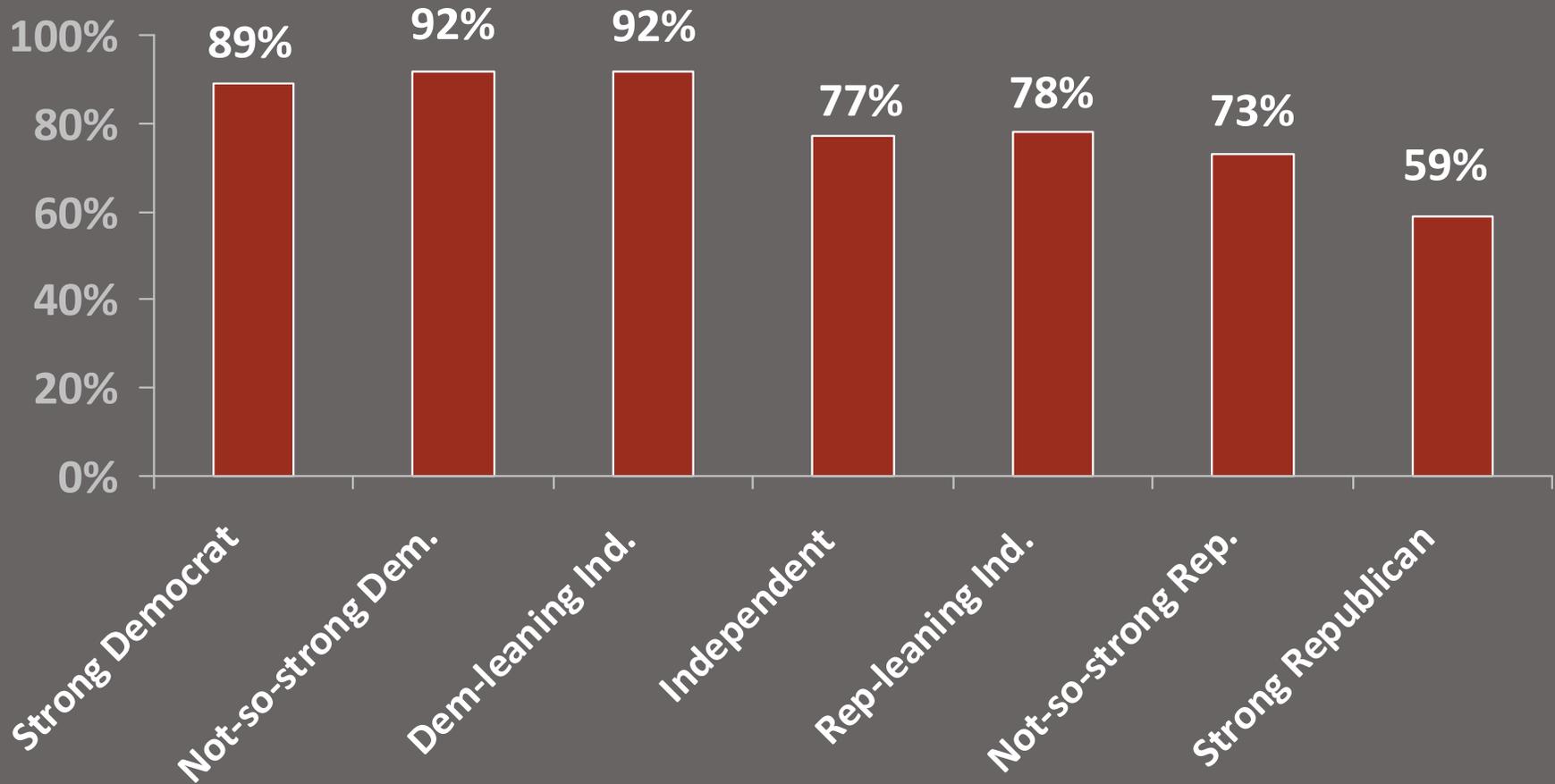
Do you favor or oppose a law guaranteeing all workers a minimum number of paid sick days to care for themselves or immediate family members?



# Majorities of all political affiliations, and strong majorities of Democrats and Independents, support a paid sick days law

7

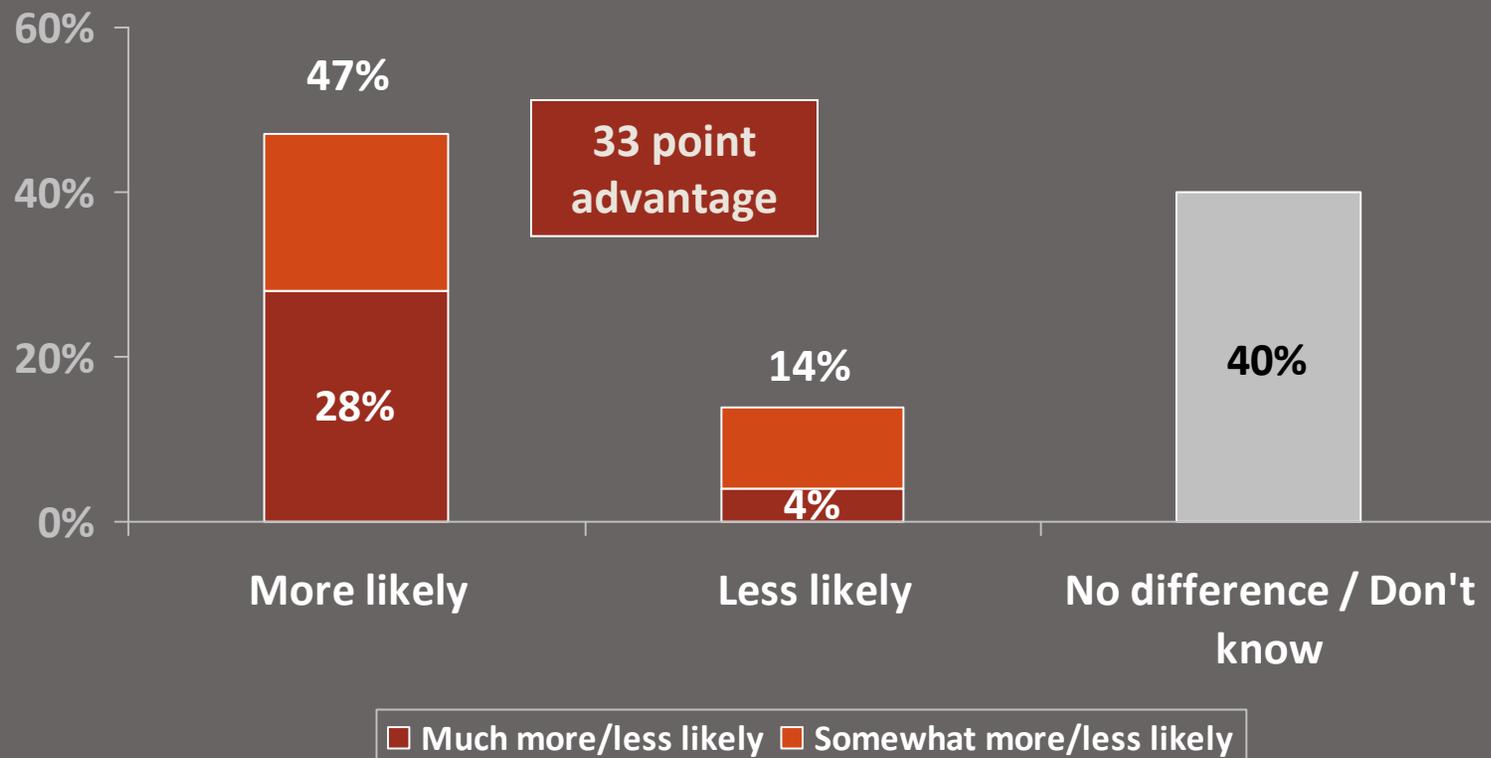
Do you favor or oppose a law guaranteeing all workers a minimum number of paid sick days to care for themselves or immediate family members?



# The public sees a candidate's support for paid sick days as a very positive factor

8

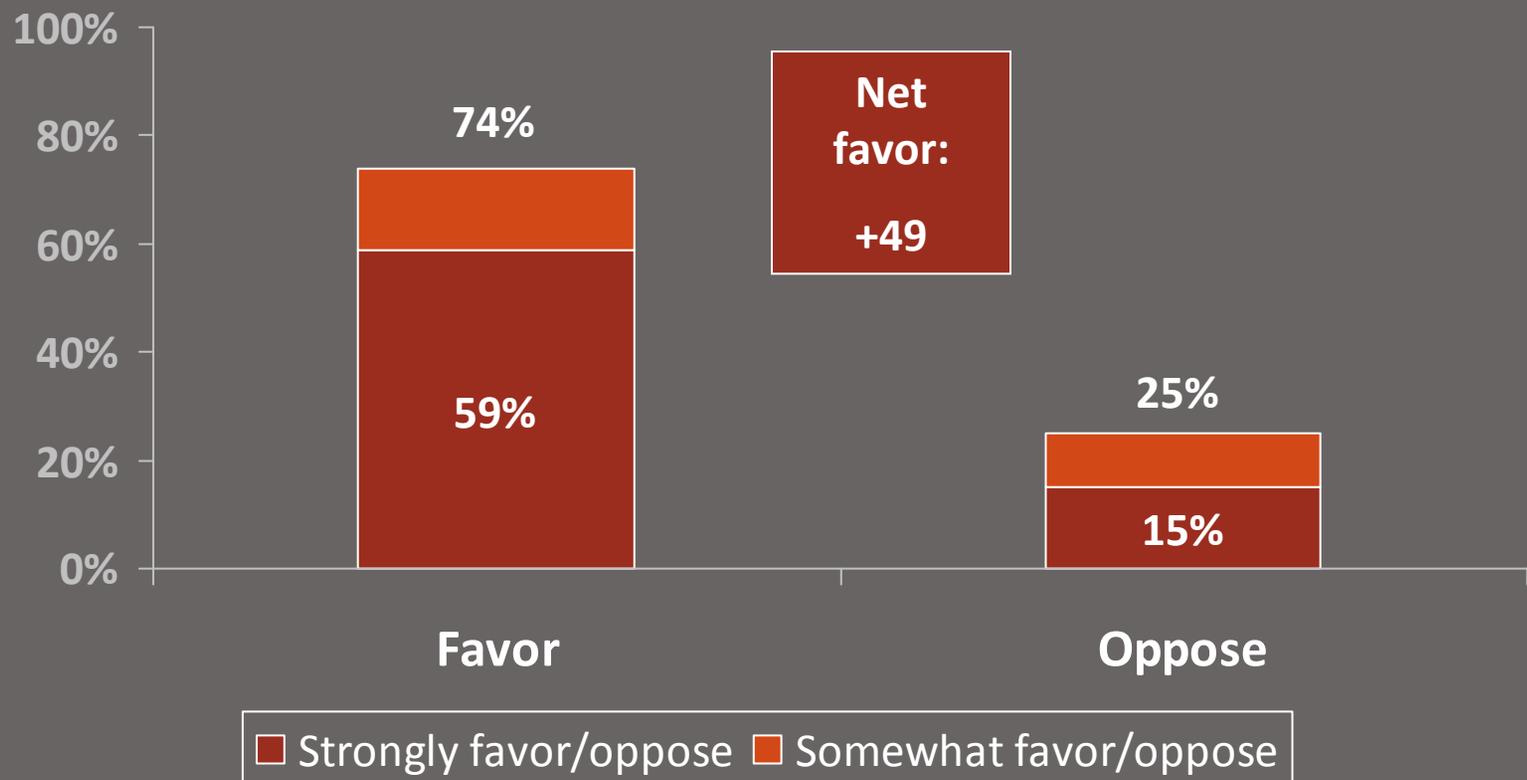
If a candidate for elected office came out in support of paid sick days for all workers, would that make you more or less likely to vote for that candidate or wouldn't it make a difference?



# After hearing messages for and against paid sick days, three-quarters of the public still supports a law guaranteeing a minimum number of paid sick days

9

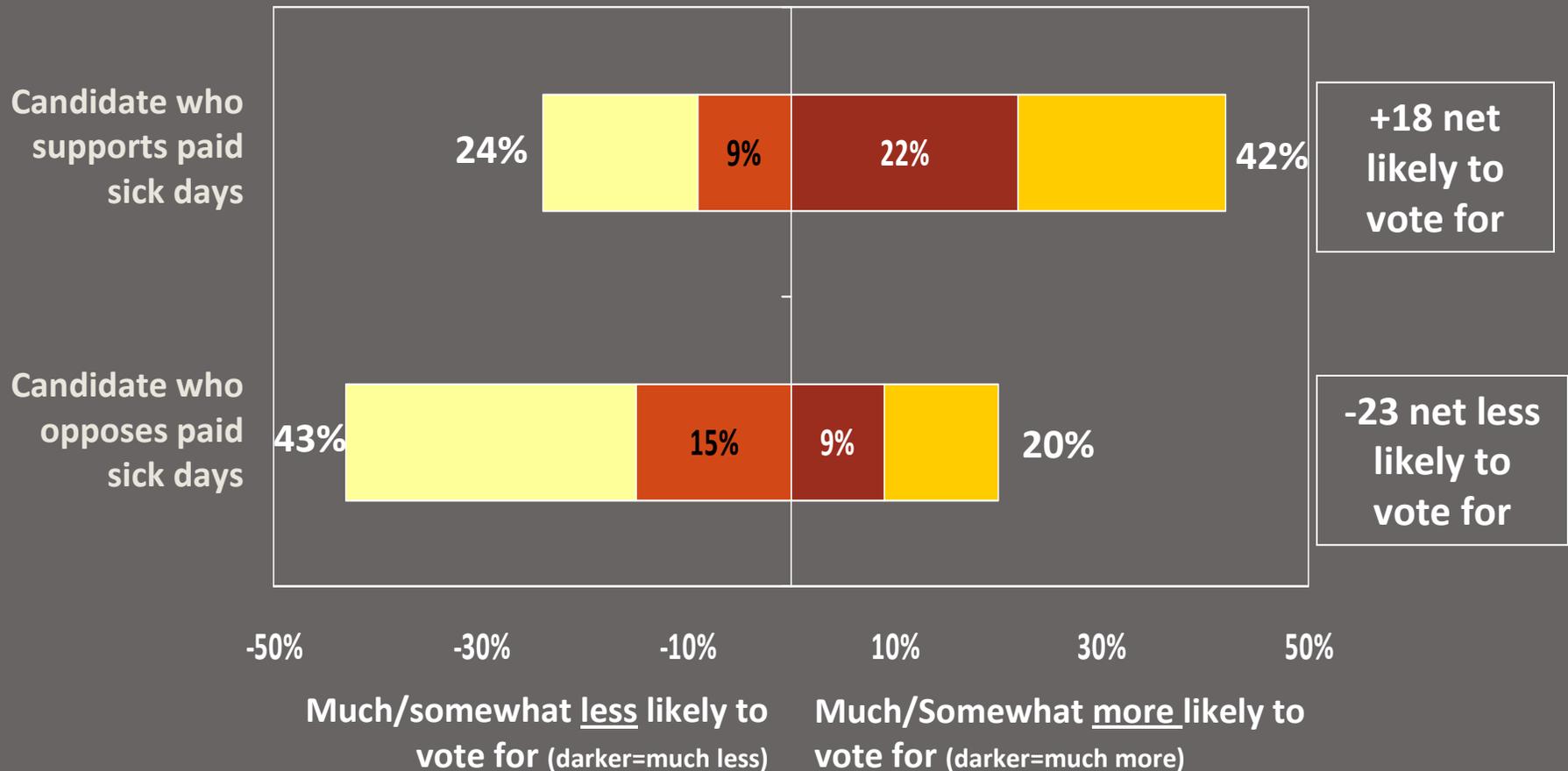
Now that you have heard these arguments for and against paid sick days... do you favor or oppose a law that would guarantee all workers a minimum number of paid sick days to care for themselves or immediate family members?



# After hearing both sets of arguments, the public is more likely to vote for a pro-paid sick days candidate and less likely to vote for an anti-paid sick days candidate

10

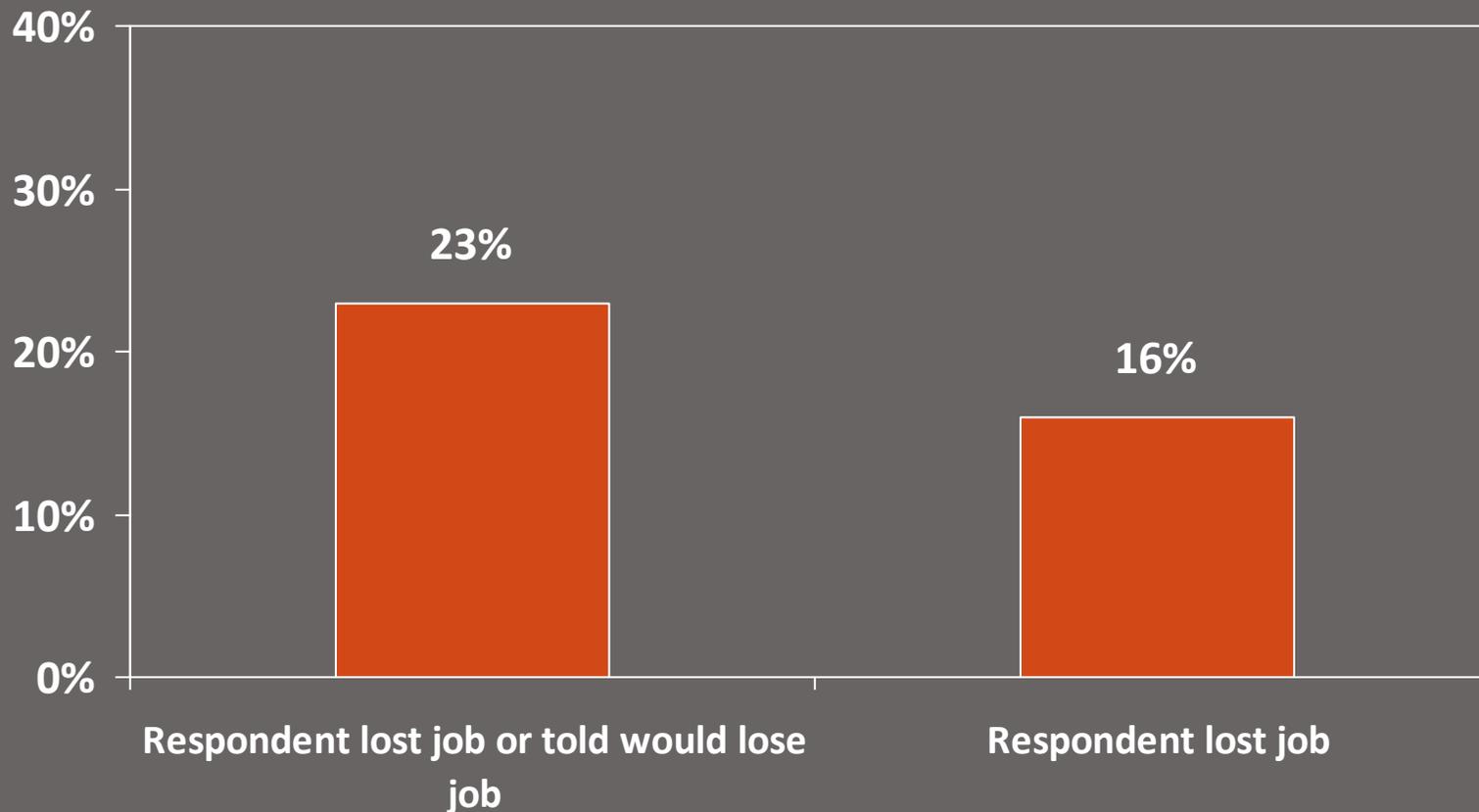
Now that you've heard arguments for and against paid sick days, if a candidate for elected office came out in support of/opposition to paid sick days for all workers, *would that make you more or less likely to vote for that candidate?*



# Nearly one-quarter of the public has lost a job or been told they would lose a job for taking sick time

11

Have you ever lost a job for taking time off from work to care for a sick child or family member, or to cope with an illness yourself? Been told by an employer that you would lose your job if you took time off from work to care for a sick child or family member, or to cope with an illness yourself?



# Nearly one-sixth of the public has been fired, suspended, written up, or otherwise penalized – or threatened with such workplace discipline – for taking sick time

12

Have you ever lost a job for taking time off from work to care for a sick child or family member, or to cope with an illness yourself? Have you ever been told by an employer that you would lose your job if you took time off from work to care for a sick child or family member, or to cope with an illness yourself? Been told by an employer that you would be fired, suspended, written up or otherwise penalized to care for a sick child or family member, or to cope with an illness yourself?

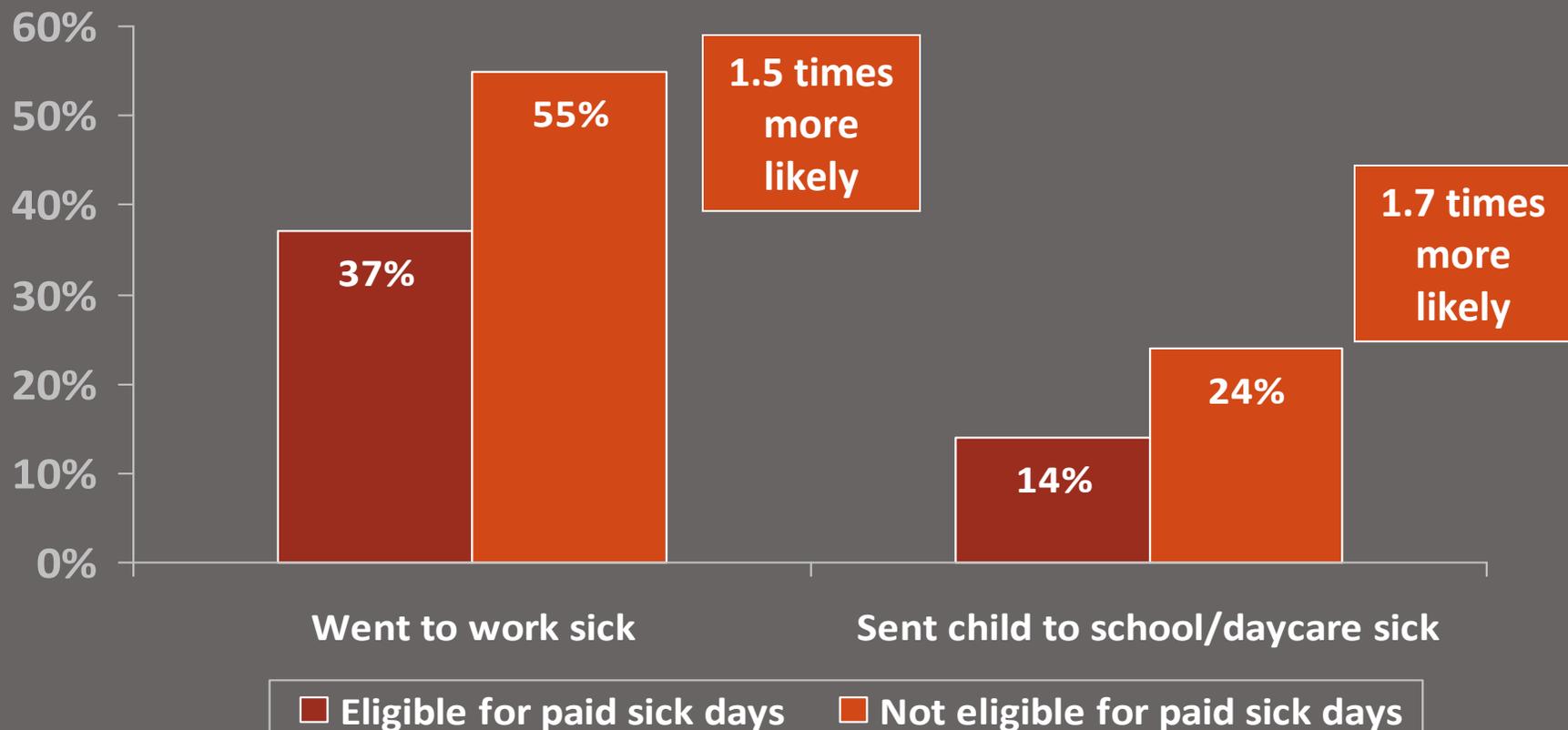


# People without paid sick days are significantly more likely to go to work sick or send a child to school or daycare sick

13

Have you ever gone to work when you were sick with a contagious illness?

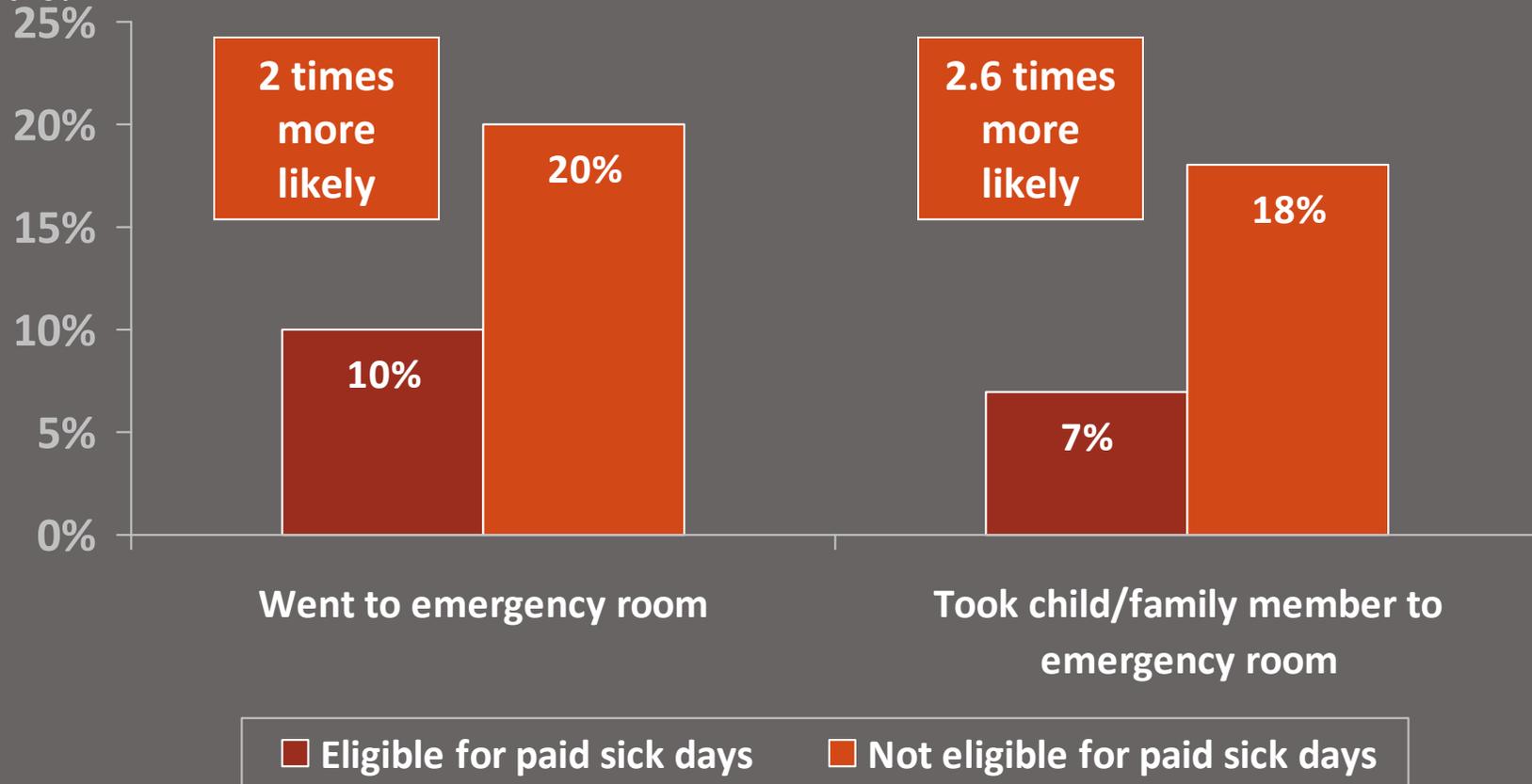
Have you ever sent a child to school or daycare sick because you could not take off from work?



# People without paid sick days are at least twice as likely to use the emergency room, driving up health care costs

14

Have you ever gone to a hospital emergency room yourself or had to take a child or other family member to the ER because you were unable to take off from work to get care during your normal job hours?



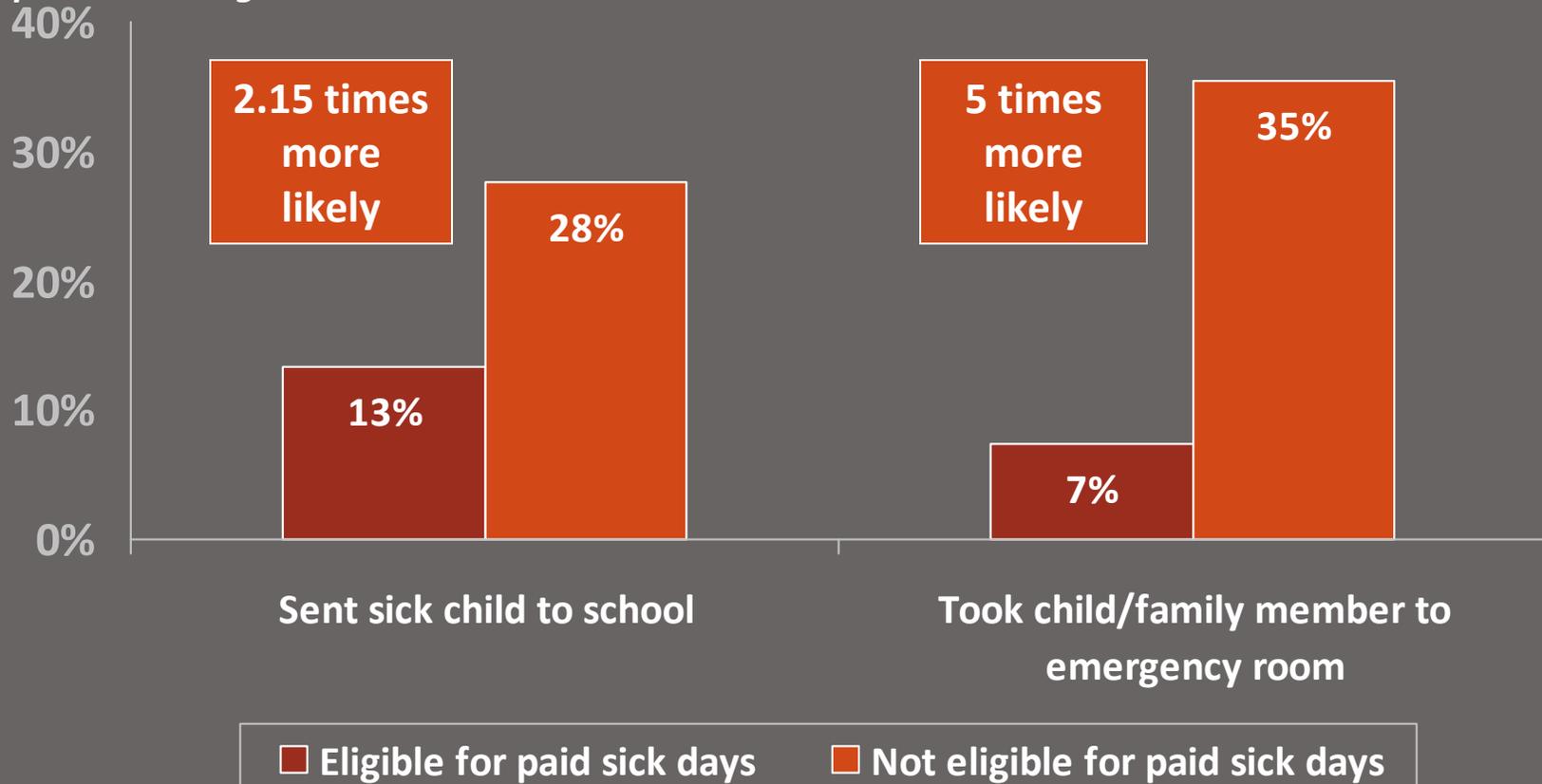
# Parents of children under 18 who do not have paid sick days are far more likely to send a sick child to school or take a sick child or family member to the ER

15

Have you ever sent a child to school or daycare sick because you could not take off from work?

Have you ever had to take a child or other family member to the ER because you were unable to take off from work to get care during your normal job hours?

*Responses among adults with children under 18*



# For More Information

16

Vicki Shabo

Director, Work & Family Programs

National Partnership for Women & Families

202/986.2600

[vshabo@nationalpartnership.org](mailto:vshabo@nationalpartnership.org)

[www.paid sick days.org](http://www.paid sick days.org)

[www.nationalpartnership.org](http://www.nationalpartnership.org)